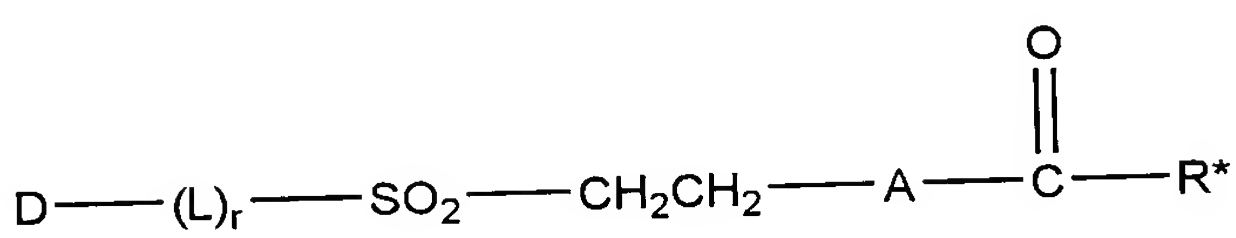
$(CH_2)_n$, peptides and polypeptides; wherein R_1 and R_2 is independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, wherein n is an integer in the range of 1 to 4 wherein within the same molecule n is not necessarily the same integer and wherein R# corresponds to an amino acid sidechain.

3. A reactive dye according to claim 2 wherein R* is selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_nSH$, $(CH_2)_nNH_2$, C_6H_4N, $CH(R\#)NH_2$, $CH(CH_3)OH$, $CH(CH_3)O(CO)CH(CH_3)OH$, $C(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$, $CH_2C(OH)(COOH)CH_2COOH$, $C(H)(CH_3)OH$, $C(H)(OH)CH_2COOH$, $CH_2C(H)(OH)COOH$, $C(H)(OH)C(H)(OH)COOH$, C_6H_4OH and $C_6H_4NH_2$.

4. A reactive dye compound according to claim 3 wherein R* is $C(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$ or $CH_2C(OH)(COOH)CH_2COOH$.

5. A reactive dye compound according to claim 1 wherein A is O.

6. A reactive dye compound having the formula (I):

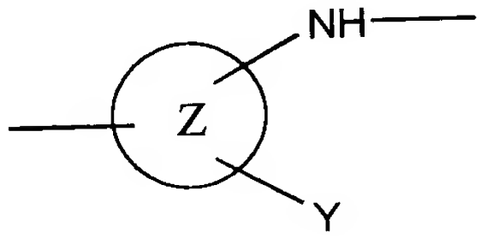


(I)

wherein: D is a chromophore group;

r is 0 or 1;

L is a linking group selected from the group consisting of NH, $(CH_2)_n$, N-$(CH_2)_n$N, -$(CH_2)_n$-N, NR (R is C1-C4 alkyl),



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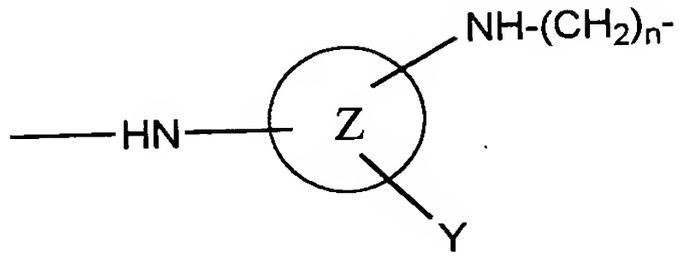

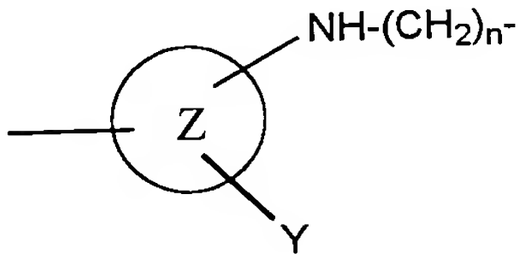

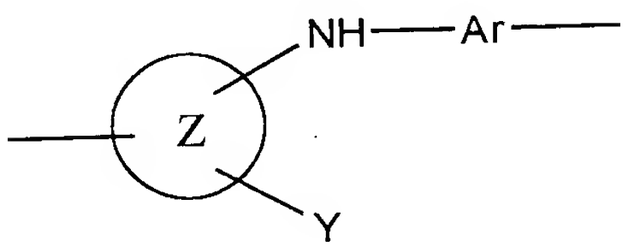

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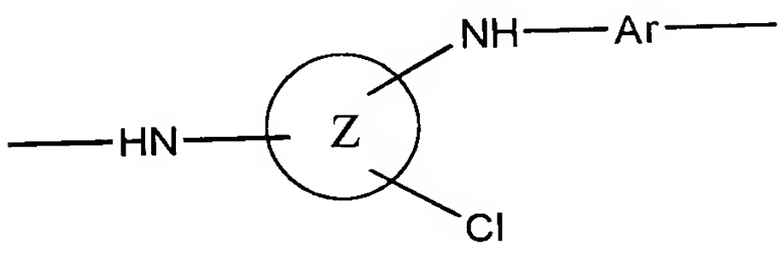

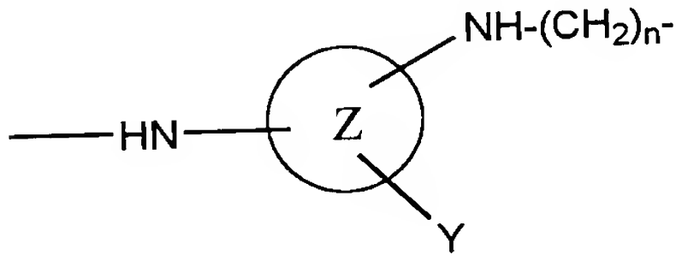

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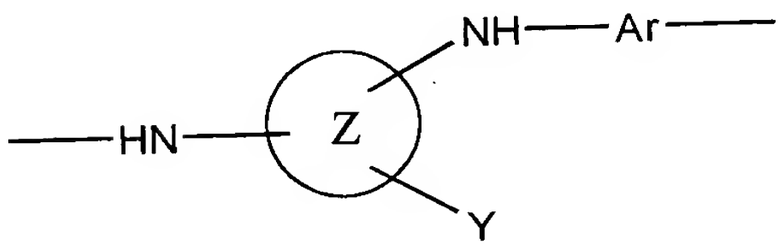

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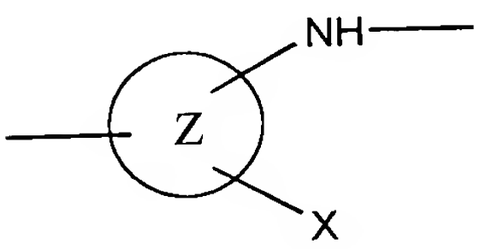

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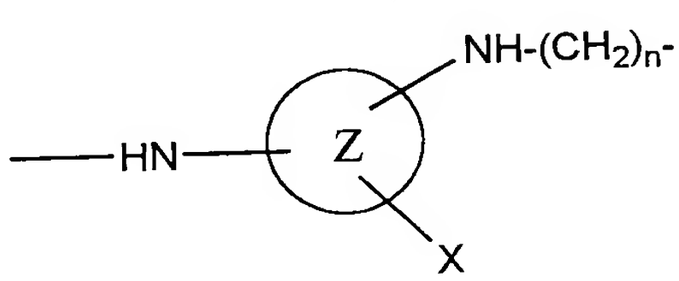

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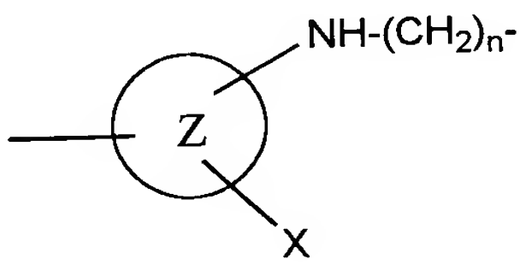

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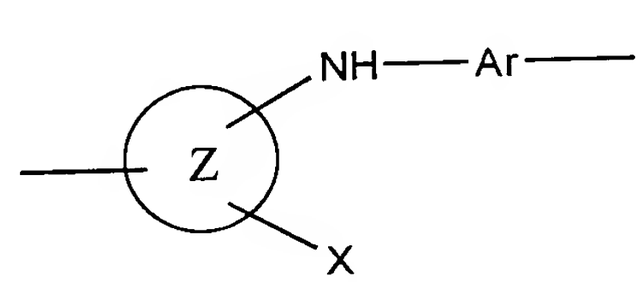
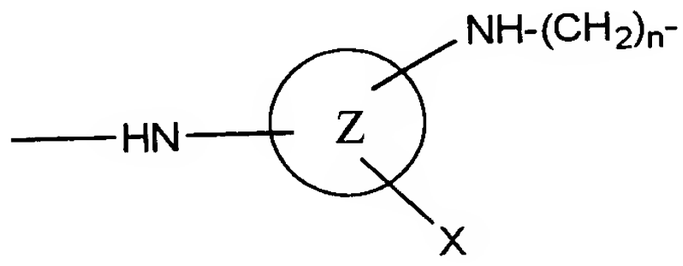
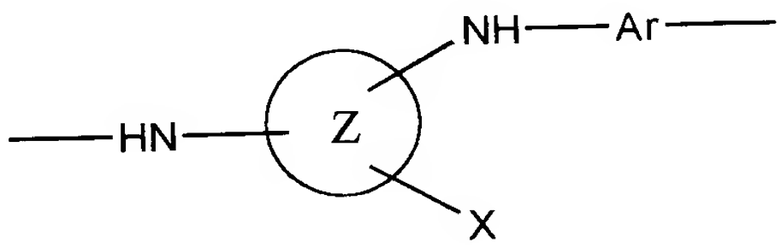




and

wherein Ar is an aryl group , Y is halogen or O(C=O)R*, n is an integer of from 1 to 4, Z is a nitrogen-containing heterocycle, X is selected from the group consisting of thio-derivatives, halogens, amines, alkoxy groups, carboxylic acid groups, CN, N_3, and quaternized nitrogen derivatives (Q+) ;

A is O or S,

R* is selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_nSH$, $(CH_2)_nNH_2$, $CH(CH_3)OH$, $CH(CH_3)O(CO)CH(CH_3)OH$, derivatives of a polyester of citric acid, $CH(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$, $CH_2(OH)(CO_2H)CH_2COOH$, $C(OH)(H)CH_2COOH$, $CH_2C(H)(OH)COOH$, $C(OH)(H)C(OH)(H)COOH$, $(CH_2)nNHR^1$, $CH_2NR^1R^2$, CH_2NHNH_2, CH_2NHOH, CH_2SMe, $CHNH_2(CH_2)n(COOH)$, $CHNH_2CH_2SMe$, $CHNH_2CH_2SSCH_2CHNH_2COOH$, $CHNH_2CH_2SO_3H$, C_6H_4OH, C_6H_4COOH, $C_6H_4NH_2$, C_6H_4N, $(CH_2)_nC_6H_4N$, $CH(R\#)NH_2$, $(CH_2)n\text{-}SSO_3^-$, $(CH_2)n\text{-}S\text{-}S\text{-}(CH_2)_n$, peptide and polypeptide derivatives linked to the vinylsulphone group via their terminal carboxylic acid group; wherein R_1 and R_2 is independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, wherein n is an integer in the range of 1 to 4 wherein within the same molecule n is not necessarily the same integer and wherein R# corresponds to an amino acid sidechain;

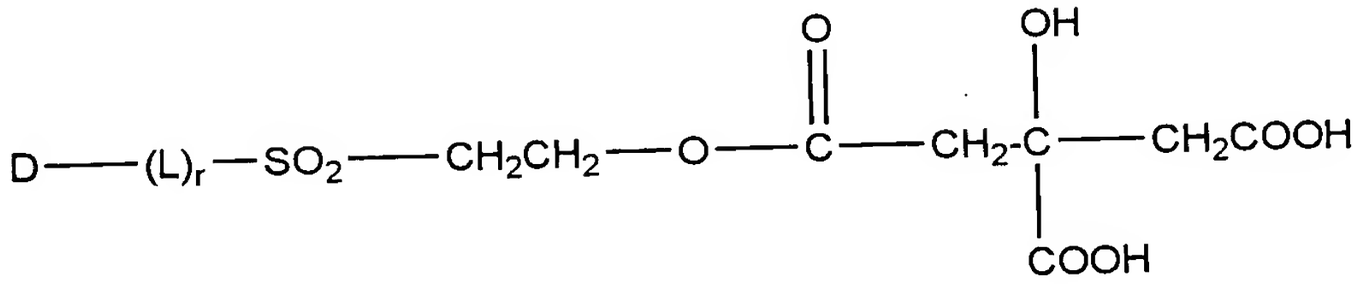
and salts thereof.

7. A reactive dye according to Claim 6 wherein R* is selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_nSH$, $(CH_2)_nNH_2$, C_6H_4N, $CH(R\#)NH_2$, $CH(CH_3)OH$, $CH(CH_3)O(CO)CH(CH_3)OH$, $C(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$, $CH_2C(OH)(COOH)CH_2COOH$, $C(H)(CH_3)OH$, $C(H)(OH)CH_2COOH$, $CH_2C(H)(OH)COOH$, $C(H)(OH)C(H)(OH)COOH$, C_6H_4OH and $C_6H_4NH_2$.

8. A reactive dye according to claim 6 wherein R* is selected from the group consisting of $C(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$, $CH_2C(OH)(COOH)CH_2COOH$ and derivatives of a citric acid polymer.

9. A reactive dye compound according to claim 6 wherein A is O.

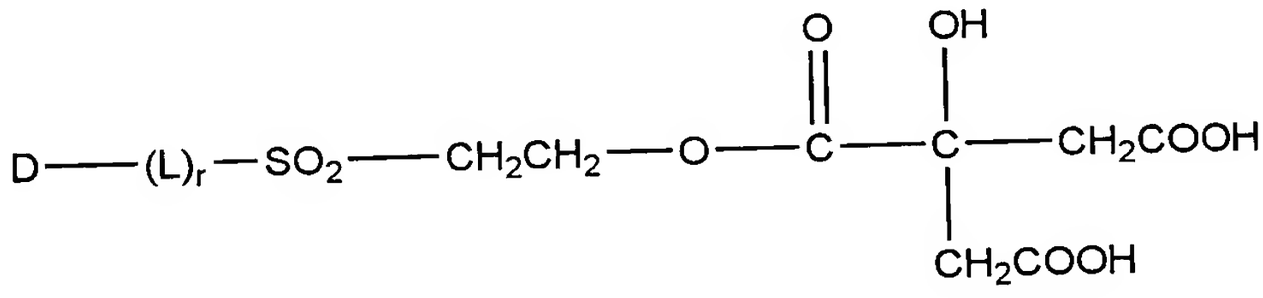
10. A reactive dye compound having the structure:



(Ia)

wherein D, L, r are as defined above.

11. A reactive dye compound having the structure:



(Ib)

wherein D, L and r are as defined above.

12. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing cellulosic substrates.

13. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing wool.

14. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing polyamide substrates.

15. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing silk.

16. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing keratin.

17. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing leather.

18. Process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1 comprising the steps of reacting a first starting material with a second starting material, the first starting material comprising at least one chromophore, at least one $SO_2C_2H_4$ which is attached to the chromophore group either directly via the sulphur atom of the $SO_2C_2H_4$ group or via a linking group L, the second starting material comprising an oxy- or thio-carbonyl group.

19. Process according to Claim 18 wherein the process is carried out at a pH of from about 2 to about 8

20. Process according to Claim 18 or 19 wherein the second starting material is added to the first starting material slowly.

21. Product obtainable by a process according to claim 18.

22. A dye composition comprising the compound of claim 1.

23. A dye composition according to Claim 22 wherein the composition is in the form of a solid mixture and further comprises an acid buffer.

24. A dye composition according to Claim 22 wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid and further comprises water and an acid buffer.

25. A dye composition according to Claim 22 wherein the composition is in the form of a paste and further comprises water, thickening agent and an acid buffer.

26. A dye composition according to claim 22 wherein the pH is from about 2 to about 3.

Basis lies, at least, in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are being entered to bring the claims into conformance with, *inter alia*, 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

Please direct further correspondence to:

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Respectfully submitted,

By ____________________

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7 Nov, 2001

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